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this trip to cover several days and to be personally conducted.

On its return, the eastern party will stop over a day or two at the Jamestown Exposition and at Richmond.

Not even an approximate cost of this trip can be given until the rate is fixed by the railroads.

F. W. FAXON, *Chairman*

34 Newbury Street, Boston, Mass.

### Book-binding Committee

In the spring of 1905 the Executive Board of the A. L. A. appointed a Committee on Book-binding. The scope of the committee was very wide, in that it was supposed to cover the questions of rebinding, book-papers, pamphlet and magazine binders, and publishers' bindings. The first report made at the meeting at Narragansett Pier called attention to important points in Mr. Dana's "Notes on Binding for Libraries;" stated that the Bureau of Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture had established a laboratory for investigation of leather and paper; gave comparisons of the cost of library and contract bindings; and mentioned equipments necessary for a small bindery.

An important part of the report covered the negotiations carried on with the publishers for better binding. In the annual report will be found the names of ten publishers who agreed to issue a special library edition sewed on tapes, the first and last signatures guarded, and bound in buckram, provided they were assured a sale for a definite number of copies.

The principal work of the committee for the present year will be an attempt to get at the number of copies of a given book that will be wanted and to induce other publishers to adopt the specification of the committee for the library trade. It will aid the committee greatly if all libraries receiving a copy of this Bulletin will send to the chairman of the committee answers to the following questions:—

1. Do you order all or nearly all the fiction recommended in the "A. L. A. Booklist"?

2. If not, do you order all the fiction recommended for small libraries?

3. Do you wait until you receive the "Booklist" before ordering, or are most of the books on your shelves when you receive it?

4. If the publishers should issue an edition specially well-bound for the use of libraries, would you order it, provided the cost of the same should not exceed \$1.10 a volume? (Orders to be sent through your regular agents.)

5. Do you duplicate largely, or do you, as a rule, get only one copy of a book?

It is especially important that all libraries send answers to these questions, for the publishers will not agree to issue a special library edition unless they are assured a sale of at least 500 copies. In August, Charles Scribner's Sons bound up 1,500 copies of "The Tides of Barnegat" according to the specifications of this committee. It is gratifying to note that nearly all of this edition has been sold.

The committee hopes to be able to publish bulletins which go fully into the details of binding and which will give the results of the experience of those who have investigated carefully binding for libraries.

First, last and all the time the committee will emphasize the fact that in rebinding books it is not so much the cost per volume that counts as it is the proportion of cost to the number of times the book circulates before it has to be discarded. A book which costs thirty cents to bind and circulates thirty times costs one cent for every time it is lent for home use. One which costs forty cents to bind and circulates eighty times cost half a cent for every time it is lent. In other words, the first book is twice as expensive as the last. The first annual report of the committee states that seventy-five times is the minimum number of times a book ought to circulate after it has been rebound.

The chairman of the committee has received 250 copies of "A Note on Bookbind-

ing," by Douglas Cockerell. As stated in the annual report of the committee, these will be sent to those who ask for them, as long as the supply lasts.

#### COMMITTEE

A. L. BAILEY, *Chairman*  
Free Library, Wilmington, Del.  
W. P. CUTTER  
DR. G. E. WIRE

#### Book-buying Committee

The Committee on Book-buying has consisted, since its appointment in 1903, of Arthur E. Bostwick, New York Public Library, Chairman; John Cotton Dana, Newark, N. J., Free Public Library; and Bernard C. Steiner, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Md. It was first named the "Committee on Relations with the Book Trade" and the resolution constituting it directed it "to secure and communicate to librarians from time to time information relating to the limitations of discount on books purchased by libraries, and to advise them in regard to any feasible measures for avoiding the hardships of the net price system." In 1904 the name was changed to its present form. During its three years of service the committee has issued 29 bulletins, printed on cards and giving various items of information and advice likely to be of value in connection with the purchase of books, especially by small libraries. These have gone out to about 3,000 librarians — to 1,200 personally, to 1,300 through the library commissions of various states, and to 500 in other ways. They have also been reprinted, either in full, or in abstract, by "Public Libraries," "The Library Journal" and the "A. L. A. Book-list." They have covered such points as book-importation; purchase at auction, at second-hand and from remainders, with frequent lists of catalogues and of the names of dealers; useful small bibliographies; aids to book-selection, and the like. The committee has also tried to keep the readers of these bulletins in touch with the net-price system

situation, especially in so far as it depends on the rules of the American Publishers' Association.

Recently it has emphasized the value of concerted action among librarians, and has endeavored to give them an opportunity to initiate such action along certain lines. Publishers have been put in touch with the feeling of librarians regarding the quality of typography, press-work, paper and binding in many modern books, and the desirability of reprinting many of those that are out of print. There have been some tangible results and there is prospect of more, provided librarians will freely communicate with the committee and thus furnish them with ammunition.

Bulletin No. 30 is printed in this issue. Back numbers, so far as they are in print, may be obtained from the chairman, and the committee will consider the reissue of out-of-print numbers for which there may be sufficient demand.

#### No. 30 BOOK-BUYING Jan., 1907

BULLETIN OF A. L. A. COMMITTEE ON BOOK-BUYING

#### LIBRARY RECOGNITION WELCOMED BY BOOK AUCTIONEERS

"An indication of the important relation of the book auctioneer to the market, as a source of supply, may be judged from the issue of a bulletin by the American Library Association during the past year, calling attention of the three thousand or more public libraries of the country to the advantages of purchasing at auction sales, recommending certain named houses, and outlining the mode of procedure in sending bids. It took years of hard and discouraging labor to bring about conditions that would warrant this recognition." — [From "The Building of a Book" (Grafton Press, 1906). Chapter on "Selling at Auction," by John Anderson, Jr. "The Building of a Book" contains also an interesting article on the selection of books.]

#### TIMES BOOK WAR

What is known in England as "The Times Book War" still offers opportunities to American libraries to secure second-hand books in good condition at low prices. When giving an order for importation, say "Buy of Times Book Club if possible."